GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:447
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2002
PTIC(S) IN RURAL AREAS
AMBATI BRAHMANAIAH

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the difference in operational efficiency between VPTs (Village Public Telephones) and PTICs(Public Telecom and Information Centres);

(b) whether private telecom companies can straightway set up PTICs(Public Telecom and Information Centres) instead of VPTs (Village Public Telephones) wherever they are feasible;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) the reasons for not permitting them to establish PTICs in rural areas, wherever these are technically feasible?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PR MAHAJAN)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 447 FOR 24TH APRIL, 2002 REGARDING PTICs IN RURAL AREAS.

(a) Majority of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) working in rural areas are not capable of supporting high data transmission rate required for Public Telephones and Information Centre due to limitations of access network. A Public Telephone and Information Centre(PTIC) should be able to support data speed upto 28.8 kbps on terrestrial lines and 9.6 kbps for WLL systems.

(b) & (c): There is no restriction on any licensed private telecom operator for setting up Public telephone and Information Centre instead of VPTs wherever feasible. Telecom regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has suggested to upgrade nearly 35000 VPTs to function as PTICs by the year 2004.

(d) Does not arise in view of (b) & (c) above.